.... MINUTES ....

OF THE

EIGHTEENTH SPRING SESSION

OF THE

Bear Creek

Primitive Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Meadow Creek, Stanly County, N. C.

MAY 3rd, 4th and 6th, 1902;

ALSO OF THE

Seventy-First Annual Session

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

Pleasant Hill, Iredell County, N. C.

OCTOBER 4th, 5th and 6th, 1902.

Compiled and Distributed by

J. W. JONES, Clerk, Boylin, Anson County, N. C.

Proceedings Spring Session, 1902.

MEADOW CREEK, Stanly County, N. C.. May 3, 1902.

Met at the stand at eleven o'clock, a. m. Introductory sermon delivered by Elder J. E. Williams from 1st verse of 5th chapter of Eph. Intermission one half hour, then the ministers and messengers assembled in the house. Praise and prayer by Elder W. R. Helmes. Then proceeded to business as follows, Eld. Mills presiding:

1. Called for and read letters from the churches of the association and their status minuted.

2. Appointed Elder J. F. Mills moderator and J. W. Jones clerk.

3. Called on corresponding messengers from sister associations to report. No report.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister associations to seats. None present.

5. Appointed a committee of arrangements as follows: Elders S. C. Little, J. E. Williams, W. R. Helmes, and Moderator and Clerk.

6. That Elders S. C. Little, W. R. Helmes, J. F. Mills, and J. E. Williams preach at the stand on to-morrow, and that service commence at ten o'clock a. m.

7. Called on committee appointed at last session to visit Liberty Church to report. Committee reported that the church did not meet them and that they, the committee, could not get at an investigation.

Liberty church then presented to the Association her confession of error, and was excused and their letter received and messenger seated in council and committee discharged.

8. Received corresponding minutes from Abbott's Creek, Silver Creek, Senter and Mountain district associations. No intelligence from Mill Branch or Cool Spring.

9. Adjourned to half-past nine Monday morning.

Benediction by the Moderator.

Sunday Services, May 4th.

Service commenced at ten o'clock a. m., by Elder J. E. Williams, from 21st verse of 9th chapter of Hebrews. Elder W. R. Helmes followed, using these words: "The ear of the Lord is not dull of hearing." etc.

Intermission thirty minutes, then Elder A. G. Morton preached from 24th verse of the 25th chapter of Matthew. Elder S. C. Little then preached, using as a text 31st and 32nd verses of the 13th chapter of Matthew. Elder Mills closed by a fine talk in a general way.

Monday Morning, May 5th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise and prayer by Elder A. G. Morton.

10. Called on committee of arrangements to report. Report submitted and adopted.

11. Called names of messengers, noted absentees and read rules of decorum.

12. Called on Presbyteries to report. No report.

13. Question by Elder S. C. Little: Does the Association deem it right and according to gospel discipline, for our members individually or collectively to join or go into any of the different organizations of the world, such as masonry, life, fire and property insurance companies, etc.?

The Association answers, no. And, resolved, that we hereby advise our members who are now entangled (if any) in such things as mentioned, to come out of them and remain seperate from them.

14. The Association now contributes the sum of $5.55 to Elder S. C. Little, it being the amount of funds left on hand from last year, and the Treasurer paid the same over to Elder Little in the presence of the Association.

15. That we return thanks to God, this church, and people of this vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting.

16. Adjourned to time and place mentioned in our last minutes.

Benediction by the Moderator.

ELDER J. F. MILLS, MODERATOR.

J. W. JONES, CLERK.

Statistical Table—Spring Session.

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.
Bear Creek	A. J. Furr, W. H. Hatley, W. P. Bowers
Bethany	N. G. Jones, P. Vaughan*, W. A Dry*
Crooked Creek	Elder J. E. Williams, W. D. Benton, H. M. Williams
Clark's Grove	E. Barbee, J. T. Lee*, J. F. Howell*
Freedom	Elder Jesse Brown*, I. Coley*, J. A. Holt
High Hill	Elder W. R. Helmes, S. A. Helmes, C. A. Helmes
Howard's Chapel	D.B. Howard, Henry Carpenter, J.S. Curlee
Jones Hill	J. A. Little, R. T. Burris, J. F. Greene
Jerusalem	T. A. Helmes*, James Godwin, L. Williams
Liberty	Myers Medlin
Liberty Hill	R. McIntire, J. C. Gilbert*
Lawyer's Spring	Thos. Tyson, Walter Edwards*, J. W. Jones
Meadow Creek	J. A. Barbee, D.M. Hathcock, E.F. Huneycutt
Mountain Creek	J. C. Miller, C. W. Safely, A. Vanhoy
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris, J. M. Stamper*
Union Grove	Josiah Baucom, T. F. Hill, Henry Rowel*
Watson	W. E. Williams, J. D. Helmes, S. L. Mullis

Absentees marked thus *.

Proceedings Fall or Annual Session, 1902.

PLEASANT HILL, IREDELL COUNTY, N. C., }
OCTOBER 4TH, 1902. }

We met in the house of worship at eleven o'clock a. m. Service opened with praise and prayer by Elder J. F. Mills; 533 hymn was used. The introductory sermon was delivered from 10th verse of 3rd chapter of Malachi, by Elder Mills. Intermission one hour, after which the ministers and messengers assembled and opened with praise and prayer, conducted by Elder A. J. Taylor, then proceeded to business, as follows:

1. Called for and read letters from the churches, and their status minuted. (See table).

2. Re-elected Elder J. F. Mills moderator, and J. W. Jones clerk.

3. Called on corresponding messengers from sister associations to seats. Brethren A. L. Owens and Samuel Snider, of Abbott's, appeared and seated in council; and Elder A. H. Nance, of Silver Creek, appeared with minutes and was seated.

4. Invited visiting brethren of sister associations to seats. Elder A. J. Taylor, of Senter, and Elders H. Taylor, G. L. McGee and Brother S. C. Jones, of Silver Creek; and Elder W. T. Broadway, and Brethren M. Williams and Henry Moncess, of Abbott's Creek, were also present and welcomed.

5. Appointed a committee of arrangements, as follows: Elders A. G. Morton, J. E. Williams, and Brother Aaron Furr, with the Moderator and Clerk.

6. Appointed Brethren D. B. Howard and R. T. Burris a committee on finance.

7. Elected the following elders to preach at the stand on to-morrow, service to commence at ten o'clock a. m., to-wit: A. J. Taylor, H. Taylor, W. T. Broadway and A. H. Nance.

8. Adjourned to half-past nine Monday morning. Benediction by the Moderator.

Saturday evening, while the Association was in session, Elders W. T. Broadway and A. J. Taylor preached to the people, much to their satisfaction and comfort.

Sunday Services, May 5th.

Services opened with singing and prayer by Elder A. G. Morton, then Elder A. J. Taylor preached from these words, "Open thy mouth and eat that I give thee." Elder Henry Taylor preached from the words, "I am determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified." Intermission one hour, after which Elders W. T. Broadway and A. H. Nance conducted services at the stand. We believe the brethren were blest and edified by such good preaching.

Monday Morning, October 6th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Praise and prayer by Elder A. J. Taylor.

9. Called on committee of arrangements to report. Report submitted, adopted and committee discharged.

10. Called names of messengers, noted absentees, and read rules of decorum.

11. Called on corresponding messengers to sister associations to report. Elders A. G. Morton, J. E. Williams and Brother H. M. Williams reported that they attended the Abbott's Creek Association and were received; others who failed to attend as appointed were excused.

12. That we correspond with the following associations thus: To Abbott's Creek, Elders A. G. Morton, J. E. Williams, J. F. Mills, W. R. Helmes, and Brethren Aaron Furr, W. E. Williams, Joel Mullis, J. H. Hinson, T. F. Hill, Stanly Edwards and H. M. Williams.

13. Called on Presbyteries to report. Brother D. B. Howard reported that Elder S. C. Little and Deacon W. H. Poplin formed a presbytery at Howard's Chapel on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1902, and ordained Brother Henry Carpenter a deacon of that church; and also it was reported that Elders S. C. Little and J. E. Williams formed a presbytery at Jones Hill on the 3rd Sunday in August, 1902, and ordained Brother J. F. Greene to the deaconship of that church.

14. That our articles of faith and rules of decorum be published in these minutes.

15. That the next spring session of this Association convene with the church at Lawyer's Spring, Anson county, N. C.,

right near the town of Peachland, and that it commence on Saturday before the first Sunday in May, 1903, Elder A. G. Morton to preach the introductory sermon, Elder J. E. Williams alternate. The Fall or annual session to convene with the church at Freedom, Stanly county, N. C., four and one-half miles from Albemarle, N. C., and to commence on Saturday before the first Sunday in October, 1903, and that Elder J. F. Mills preach the introductory sermon, Elder A. G. Morton alternate.

16. That the Clerk ask Elder Gold to publish notices of our next two sessions in the Landmark.

17. Called on Treasurer to report, who reported no funds on hand from last year since the donation to Elder Little last May. (See Spring session minutes).

18. Called for report of committee of finance. They report, sent up by the churches this year, the sum of $20.05.

19. That the Clerk superintend the printing of 600 copies of these minutes, distribute as usual, and that we allow our Clerk $6.00 for his services.

20. That we return thanks to God, this church, and people of this vicinity for kindness and hospitality during this meeting.

21. That we now adjourn to times and places above mentioned in these minutes.

ELDER J. F. MILLS, MODERATOR.
J. W. JONES, Clerk.

Monday, Elders A. J. Taylor and J. E. Williams conducted preaching at the stand.

STATISTICS FOR THE WHOLE YEAR.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF MESSENGERS TO FALL SESSION.	By Experience.	Baptized.	Received by Letter.	Restored.	Excluded.	Dismissed by Letter	Deceased.	In Fellowship.	Contributions.
Bear Creek	A. J. Furr, W. H. Hatley, E. N. Herrin	7	7	--	--	--	--	1	34	$1 50
Bethany	E. C. Jones*, P. Vaughn*, W. A. Dry*	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	11	1 15
Crooked Creek	Eld. J. E. Williams, W. D. Benton, H. M. Williams	--	--	--	--	--	2	2	14	1 00
Clark's Grove	E. Barbee, J. F. Howel*	3	3	1	--	--	1	--	16	1 00
Howard's Chapel	Henry Carpenter, D. B. Howard, J. S. Curlee	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	1 00
Jones Hill	Eld. A. G. Morton, R. T. Burris, A. E. Little*	11	11	3	--	--	--	--	42	1 75
Jerusalem	Joseph Thomas*, Ben Thomas, W. A. Helmes*	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	21	1 50
Liberty	Not represented at Fall session	--	--	--	--	1	--	1	17	
Liberty Hill	Represented only by letter	3	3	--	1	--	2	1	12	50
Lawyer's Spring	Thos. Tyson, Walter Edwards, J. W. Jones	--	--	--	--	1	--	--	34	2 55
Meadow Creek	J. A. Barbee, D. M. Hathcock*, E. F. Huneycutt*	2	2	--	--	--	--	1	22	1 40
Mountain Creek	J. C. Miller*, A. Vanhoy*, C. W. Safely*	--	--	--	--	--	1	1	13	1 00
Pleasant Hill	H. P. Cashen, J. M. Stamper	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	12	1 00
Union Grove	Joseph Baucom, T. F. Hill, Henry Rowel	1	1	--	1	1	--	--	29	1 00
Watson	W. E. Williams, J. A. Jones, Joel Mullis	4	4	2	1	--	--	--	28	1 70
Freedom	Eld. Jesse Brown*, J. H. Hinson, J. A. Holt*	2	2	--	--	--	--	--	9	50
High Hill	Eld. W. R. Helmes, J. J. Hill*, S. A. Helmes*	3	2	--	1	2	2	1	44	1 50
	Absentees marked thus *. Totals	38	36	6	4	6	8	8	372	20 05

ANNUAL COMMUNION MEETINGS.

CHURCHES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.	THE ANNUAL COMMUNION MEETING TIME OF EACH CHURCH.
Bear Creek	Aaron Furr—Bloomington, N. C.	1st Sun. in Aug.
Bethany	N. G. Jones—Jones Creek, "	3rd Sun. in Aug.
Crooked Creek	W. D. Benton—Raywood, "	3rd Sun. in July
Clark's Grove	E. Barbee—Garmond, "	2nd Sun. in July
Howard's Chapel	W. H. Poplin—Efird's Mill, "	4th Sun. in Sept.
Jones Hill	J. A. Little—Big Lick, "	3rd Sun. in Sept.
Jerusalem	T. A. Helms—Negrohead, "	2nd Sun. in Aug.
Liberty	Myers Medlin—Monroe, "	4th Sun. in July
Liberty Hill	A. J. Furr—Bloomington, "	4th Sun. in July
Lawyer's Spring	J. W. Jones—Boylin, "	1st Sun. in Aug.
Meadow Creek	M. A. Barbee—Locust, "	3rd Sun. in Aug.
Mountain Creek	A. F. Honeycutt—Bridgeport, "	2nd Sun. in Oct.
Pleasant Hill	J. S. Norris—Rock Cut, "	4th Sun. in June
Union Grove	I. N. Medlin—Monroe, "	2nd Sun. in Sept.
Watson	S. L. Mullis—Sincerity, "	4th Sun. in May
Freedom	J. A. Holt—Whitley, "	2nd Sun. in Sept.
High Hill	S. A. Helms—Monroe, "	1st Sun. in Sept.

The above dates, including Saturday before, also represent the regular Monthly Meeting Time of the Churches.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. A Moderator, or Chief Speaker, and Clerk may be chosen by the suffrages of the members present.

2nd. The Chief, Speaker, or Moderator, shall take his seat at the hour to which the Association shall be adjourned, and after prayer shall proceed to business. It shall be his duty to keep order, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speech as that of another member; provided he appoint one of the members to fill the chair during the exercise of such privilege, and in no case shall give a vote unless the Association be equally divided..

3rd. Only one member shall be allowed to speak at a time, who shall rise from his seat and address the Chief Speaker by the appellation of brother, and while speaking shall confine himself strictly to the subject in question, and shall not be interrupted unless he digress from the subject, and shall in no wise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips and failings and imperfections, but shall fairly give his own views of the case without sophistry or criticism.

4th. No person shall speak more than three times on one subject without leave of the Association.

5th. No person shall absent himself from the Association without leave.

6th. No member of the Association shall address any other member by any other term or name than that of brother.

7th. The Chief Speaker, or Moderator, shall not interrupt one member to prohibit him from speaking until his speech is finished, except he break the Rules of Decorum.

8th. The names of all the members of this Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk, and be called over as often as the Association may require.

Any member who shall willingly and knowingly break or violate any of the foregoing rules of this Association, shall be reproved by the Association in any way they may think proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

Article 1. We believe in one only living and true God, the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

Art. 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all God's perfection in nature, providence, grace and glory, and in relative union with the divine word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Art. 3. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments contain the only written revealed word of God, and are the only perfect rule of faith and practice for God's church in her militant state while here on earth.

Art. 4. We believe the doctrine of Election, that God chose his church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Art. 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, their federal head.

Art. 6. We believe in the doctrine of Original Sin.

Art. 7. We believe in the impotency of man to recover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Art. 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and his righteousness only.

Art. 9. We believe that God's elect or church shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Art. 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

Art. 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men.

Art. 12. We believe that no man as a minister has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptised, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular Presbytery.

Art. 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and the unjust, and a general judgment.

Art. 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

Form of Government (or Constitution) of the Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association,

which was adopted in the date of A. D., 1832, and has been in vogue ever since.

1st. The Associatian shall be composed of members duly chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association, who producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointments, shall be entitled to a seat.

2nd. In the letters from the different churches shall be expressed their members in full fellowship, those baptized, received by letter, excommunicated, restored and dead since the last Association.

3rd. The members thus chosen and convened shall be denominated the Bear Creek Association, who shall have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor have any ecclesiastical power to infringe on the internal rights of the church, nevertheless in some cases, it becomes necessary to have some uniform rule for proceeding, viz: when an offense may be committed by one church against another, we advise the church so offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fail of success, she may call in the aid of two or more churches in the union to assist in the labors, and, if finally, satisfaction in the opinion of the helps cannot be obtained, then the aggrieved church may bring the case before the Association, whose duty it shall be to act on it; and also, when any serious difference may arise, in any individual church, which they all, after due labor had, cannot reconcile, we advise the church then to call in the aid of two or more churches in the Union to assist in the work; and, if no satisfaction can be had, it may be brought before the Association, who shall act on it, and further to illustrate the mode of proceeding in the above cases, reference shall be had to the 18th chapter of the gospel of Matthew and other scriptures, which respect discipline for the bringing to trial, and determining on the case of an individual member in an individual church, and the Association will take cognizance of no case of the kind unless the above proceeding be had thereon.

4th. The Association when convened shall be governed by a regular and proper Decorum, which they are authorized to form for themselves.

5th. The Association shall appoint a Chief Speaker or Moderator from among themselves for the time being, whose

duty it shall be to see that the Rules of Decorum shall be attended to, take the opinion of the Association on all questions properly brought before them; and a Clerk shall be appointed by the Association, whose duty it shall be take a correct minute of the proceedings of the Association, keep a regular file of the minutes, who shall be at liberty to choose his assistant.

6th. New churches may be admitted into this union, who shall petition by letter and delegate or delegates on examination, if found orthodox and orderly may be received and may be manifested by the Chief Speaker or Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the delegate or delegates.

7th. Every church or delegate shall be entitled to representation in the Association, but shall not have more than three members from a church.

8th. Any query presented to the Association by any church in the Union shall be read, on which the sense of the Association shall be taken, whether it be considered, and if there be a majority for taking it into consideration it shall be examined, otherwise it shall be withdrawn, nevertheless no query except such as relate to the general Union, shall be received from any church which has not been deliberately considered in the church in which it originated and which they cannot get satisfaction.

9th. Every motion made in order and seconded, shall come under the consideration of the Association unless it be withdaawn by the person who made it together with his second.

10th. The Association shall endeavor to furnish the churches with minutes of their proceedings, and in order to enable them to do it in the most convenient manner, it is recommended that the churches should contribute such sums of money as they think proper and send by their messengers, which, when received, shall be put into the hands of the Treasurer appointed for that purpose, and shall be distributed as the Association may direct for the benefit of the church.

11th. Presbyteries for the purpose of constituting churches or acting in conjunction with the churches, in ordaining ministers or restoring those whose gifts have been suspended by excommunication to their former functions, shall be composed of two or more ministers in the Union.

12th. The Association shall provide for the general Union of the churches, preserve a chain of communication among them, give them advice in matters of difficulties, enquire into the cause why any churches fail to represent themselves in

the Association, appropriate the money sent by the churches for associational fund to any purpose they may think proper or necessary for the benefit of the churches, and appoint any member or members of the Association with his or their consent to transact any business for the benefit of the Union which they think proper.

13th. The Association may withdraw from any church or churches that are disorderly in principle or practice.

14th. The Association may, at its sitting, admit any distant brethren, whose principles accord with theirs, to sit with them, who shall be at liberty to discourse any question, and give his light, but not permitted to vote except touching the general Union.

15th. All questions should be determined by a majority of members present, except in the reception of churches which should be unanimous.

16th. Two-thirds of the members form a quorum to do business.

17th. Amendments may be made to this form of government and to this constitution—a majority of members being present.

18th. The minutes of this Association shall be read and corrected if need be, and signed by the Chief Speaker and Clerk.

19th. The Association may adjourn to any time and place they may think proper.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1902.

On hand from last year		$——
Sent up by the churches this year		20.05
For printing these minutes	$14.00	
Clerk's services	6.00	
Total expenses	$20.00	20.00
Left in treasury		$ .05

J. W. JONES,
CLERK AND TREASURER.

Boylin, N. C.

NOTICE.

I have this day put the manscript of our minutes in the Journal Job Office at same figure they were printed for last year. I offered the work to others, and could not get any better terms taking in consideration quality of work and dispatch of work. J. W. JONES, CLERK.

October 9, 1902.